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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

6655-63

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March 13, 1963

Dear John:

Enclosed herewith is the new NRO agreement in final form, reflecting a few changes that were made in the earlier draft approved by each of us, which were worked out yesterday among Messrs. Horwitz, Kirkpatrick and Scoville.

I have signed both copies, and when you have added your signature will you return one copy to me.

Will you have your office let me know as soon as the agreement is signed so that Dr. McMillan may be notified and the appropriate arrangements made between him and Dr. Scoville.

Sincerely,

ROS

Honorable John A. McCone

Director of Central Intelligence

cc: Mr. Horwitz
Dr. McMillan (*not yet sent*)

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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
ON
MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM**

I. Management of the National Reconnaissance Program

A. To insure that the particular talents, experience and capabilities within the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency are fully and most effectively utilized in the establishment, management and conduct of the National Reconnaissance Program, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence hereby agree that the Secretary of Defense shall be the Executive Agent for the National Reconnaissance Program, which shall be developed, managed and conducted in accordance with policies and guidance jointly agreed to by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

B. To carry out his responsibilities as Executive Agent for the National Reconnaissance Program, the Secretary of Defense will establish as a separate operating agency of the Department of Defense a National Reconnaissance Office under the direction, authority and control of the Secretary of Defense.

C. In the execution of their respective responsibilities the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence may designate appropriate officials of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency to examine and monitor on their behalf the activities of the National Reconnaissance Office.

II. Organization and Command of the National Reconnaissance Office

The National Reconnaissance Office shall consist of:

A. A Director appointed from among the officers and employees of the Department of Defense by the Secretary of Defense with the concurrence of the Director of Central Intelligence, who shall devote a major portion of his time to the business of the National Reconnaissance Office.

B. A Deputy Director appointed from among the officers and employees of the Central Intelligence Agency by the Director of Central

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Intelligence with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense. The Deputy Director NRO shall be in the chain of command directly under the Director NRO and shall at all times be kept fully and currently informed as to all activities of the National Reconnaissance Program. Under the direction of the Director NRO he shall be responsible for:

1. Supervising relations between the NRO and the United States Intelligence Board and its subcommittees, and the intelligence exploitation community.

2. Supervising all NRP tasks assigned by the Director NRO to the Central Intelligence Agency.

3. Performing such other duties as may be assigned by the Director, NRO.

The Deputy Director shall act for, and exercise the powers of the Director, NRO, during his absence or disability.

C. Such personnel of the Army, Navy, Air Force, other components of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency as shall be assigned on a full time basis to appropriate positions within the National Reconnaissance Office.

D. The chain of command shall run directly from the Secretary of Defense as Executive Agent to the Director, NRO. Guidance to the Director, NRO, shall be furnished by the Secretary of Defense as Executive Agent hereunder and by the United States Intelligence Board.

III. Functions and Responsibilities of the National Reconnaissance Office

Subject to the direction, authority and control of the Secretary of Defense, the National Reconnaissance Office, under the operational direction and control of its Director, is responsible for the management of all aspects of the NRP, including but not limited to:

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A. Development on a continuing basis for the approval of the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence of a single National Reconnaissance Program of all projects for collection of intelligence, mapping and geodetic information through overflights over denied territory, by collection systems exclusive of normal peripheral operations. Maximum use will be made of appropriate technical and operational capabilities and resources of the Department of Defense, NSA and CIA to support all collection and processing projects.

B. Responding directly and solely to the intelligence collection requirements and priorities established by the United States Intelligence Board.

C. Scheduling all missions for overflights in the National Reconnaissance Program, obtaining appropriate clearances where required from higher authority.

D. All NRP flights over denied territory, employing appropriate capabilities, facilities and resources of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency.

E. Initial imagery processing, titling, production and delivery of the collected product to the users as specified by the USIB.

F. Decommutation, conversion, technical correction and reconstruction of the collected electronic signal data to yield a usable collection product, and delivery of such collection product in proper format together with associated data necessary for exploitation to the NSA or other user as specified by the USIB.

G. Engineering analysis of all collection systems to correct the problems that exist on the operating systems as well as to provide information for new systems.

H. Planning and conduct of research and development of future NRP projects, utilizing appropriate resources and capabilities of the DoD, CIA and private contractors.

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I. Presentation, as required, of all aspects of the NRP to the Special Group and the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

J. Maintenance of a uniform system of security procedures and control in accordance with security policy established for the NRP by the Director of Central Intelligence.

K. Preparation of budget requests for all NRO programs, and presentation and substantiation of such budget requests to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence, the Bureau of the Budget and Congressional Committees. CIA will include in its budget presentation to the Bureau of the Budget and Congressional Committees the funds for those NRP tasks which are assigned to CIA and which are to be financed from NRO resources.

L. Direction and management of the application of, and administration of all funds made available for the National Reconnaissance Program. Funds expended or obligated under the authority of the Director of Central Intelligence under Public Law 110 will be administered and accounted for by CIA.

M. Rendition of status of funds reports and analyses.

N. Release of public information subject to the security guidance of CIA.

IV. Authorities

The Director, National Reconnaissance Office, in connection with his assigned responsibilities for the National Reconnaissance Program, shall be authorized to:

A. Organize, staff and supervise the National Reconnaissance Office.

B. Establish, manage and conduct the National Reconnaissance Program.

C. Assign all project tasks such as technical management, contracting, etc., to appropriate elements of the DoD and the CIA, changing such assignments, and taking any such steps he may determine necessary to the efficient management of the NRP.

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D. Issue appropriate instructions and procedures implementing this agreement.

V. Relationships

A. In carrying out his responsibilities for the National Reconnaissance Program, the Director, National Reconnaissance Office shall:

1. Report directly to the Secretary of Defense and shall keep him and the Director of Central Intelligence currently informed on the NRO and the NRP. In addition he shall keep such officials of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency as the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence may respectively designate under the provisions of paragraph I. C. to examine and monitor the National Reconnaissance Program on their behalf, personally informed on a regular basis, or on request, on the status of projects of the National Reconnaissance Program.

2. Establish appropriate liaison between the National Reconnaissance Office and the United States Intelligence Board, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency.

3. Where appropriate make use of qualified personnel of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency as full-time members of the National Reconnaissance Office.

4. Make maximum utilization of appropriate technical and operational capabilities and resources of the Department of Defense, the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency to support all collection and processing programs including but not limited to, electronic signal and imagery programs.

B. Officials of all elements of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency shall provide support within their respective authorities to the Director, National Reconnaissance Office, as may be necessary for the Director to carry out his assigned responsibilities and functions. Streamlined management procedures shall be utilized whereby individual project directors will report directly to the Director, National Reconnaissance Office. The Director, National Reconnaissance Office, shall be given support as required from normal staff elements of the

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military departments and agencies of the Department of Defense and of the Central Intelligence Agency concerned, although these staff elements will not participate in those project matters except as he specifically requests, and these projects will not be subject to normal Department of Defense or Central Intelligence Agency staff review.

VI. Effective Date

This agreement is effective upon signature and supersedes the DoD-CIA NRO Agreement dated 2 May 1962.

_____ March 1963

John A. McCone
Director of Central Intelligence

Roswell Gilpatric
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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